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Police exchange information on charged colonel

MURDER Halifax Regional Police are exchanging information with the Ontario Provincial Police on Col. Russell Williams.

Williams was charged with two counts of first degree murder in Ontario on Monday. Before becoming base commander at CFB Trenton he was stationed at CFB Shearwater from 1992 to 1994.

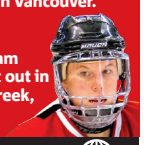
Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said Halifax investigators have had talks with the OPP, but so far nothing suggests any impact on their own files. There are three unsolved murders on file from the time Williams lived in the province.

METRO HALIFAX

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 6

News on the Move
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• Today — Women's hockey team toughed it out in Dawson Creek, page 15



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RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Tory MLA Cecil Clarke answers questions about the resignation of his colleague Richard Hurlburt yesterday. Hurlburt is on vacation in Florida and interim Tory leader Karen Casey was out of town yesterday. More expenses coverage, page 3

Tories reel as Hurlburt quits, Casey stays put

Caucus supports leader in first fallout from expenses audit

PAUL MCLEOD
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Yarmouth MLA Richard Hurlburt has resigned his seat, while interim Tory leader Karen Casey insists she will stay put.

Hurlburt is so far the only MLA to offer his resignation in the aftermath of the auditor general's expense report. While his $8,000 home generator was not the most expensive item, he is the only active MLA known to have hidden an expense being listed — his $2,500 TV.

Casey avoided face-to-face interviews for the second day in a row yesterday, but via a conference call told reporters Hurlburt was "truly sorry" and will be "deeply missed."



Hurlburt

"He certainly regrets having to make that decision. He has been one of our most effective MLAs over the last 10 years and has represented the folks in Yarmouth extremely well," said Casey.

"It was very difficult for me to accept that (resignation) letter, but I do respect his decision."

Casey admitted she knew Hurlburt had expensed the TV last week when reporters asked her flatly if any other excessive expenses belonged to her party. At that time, neither Casey nor Hurlburt mentioned the TV. It was revealed four days later when a list of names was made public.

She now says it's because that expense was deemed "excessive" instead of "inappropriate" by the auditor general, and it was up to Hurlburt to clarify what that meant.

Casey said yesterday she "handled it the way I thought was in the best interest of Nova Scotians" and will not offer her resignation.

"There never was any attempt to withhold or mislead, I regret that that was interpreted that way. That certainly was not the intent. Could that have been done differently? Absolutely. But that was the path that I chose to take," she said.

After an emergency caucus meeting MLA Cecil Clarke and party president Rob Batherson expressed their support for Casey on behalf of the party.

"I can tell you that our caucus has confirmed to our president that our leader is our leader," said Clarke.

"As far as having my confidence shaken in her ability, that's not the case."

Herd going hard to land Memorial Cup in 2012

BID Halifax Mooseheads owner Bobby Smith likes his chances of landing the 2012 Memorial Cup.

Smith announced yesterday the Mooseheads are "aggressively" working to bring the Canadian Hockey League championship back to the Metro Centre. They also hosted in 2000.

"We're not just throwing our hat in the ring and saying, 'Hey, if nobody else wants it, we'll take it,'" Smith said. "We're going to work hard at it, we're going to do innovative things, and we're going to make it very hard to say no to us."

The Cape Breton Screaming Eagles, Saint John Sea Dogs and Shawinigan Cataractes are also bidding.

The Mooseheads, who drew 80,000 fans in 2000, also bid for the 2009 Memorial Cup but were edged out by the Rimouski Oceanic. Their lack of a championship-calibre roster hurt them, but Smith said that won't be a problem this time.

"We'll have a very easy time making a case that we'll be a very strong team that year," Smith said.

The Mooseheads will make a preliminary presentation next week. A decision won't be made until April, 2011.

"If you're on the selection committee, there's absolutely no risk Halifax is not going to work well," Smith said.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO HALIFAX


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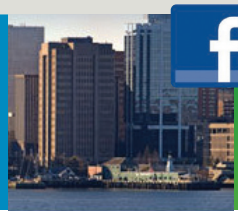
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Man charged after cop assault

CRIME Halifax police say they had use a stun gun to subdue a man after an attack on several officers.

A 31-year-old man appeared in court yesterday on charges of assaulting police, assault causing bodily harm, attempting to disarm an officer and domestic assault.

Officers were called to a domestic dispute Monday on Portia White Court.

Police say they tried to approach a man who then allegedly punched an officer in the face, cutting his lip and breaking a tooth.

Police claim the man grabbed the officer around the waist and was trying to get his gun.

Police also allege the man kicked, punched and spit on other officers who were called to the scene.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

BUST Members of the Halifax RCMP made an unexpected find while investigating a home invasion in Fall River late Monday. At approximately 11:40 P.M, police responded to reports of a break and enter on Tamarack Circle. Upon investigating the home, marijuana plants were found. The RCMP and Halifax Regional Police Integrated Drug Unit were called to the scene. During a search of the premises, police located and seized over 270 marijuana plants, drug paraphernalia and grow equipment. No arrests have been made, and the matter is still under investigation.

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Tories want 'full disclosure' on political double dippers

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

The Tories want the curtains to be fully pulled back on which politicians misused public money.

A partial list of MLAs linked to auditor general Jacques Lapointe's report was released Monday, but many other abuses remain anonymous. More details are believed to be included in a letter from Lapointe to Speaker Charlie Parker. The Tories are calling for everyone to see that letter.

"We want to make sure that there is full disclosure, that indeed we move forward with the next steps," said Cape Breton North MLA Cecil Clarke.

"We believe that we need more information from the speaker, so we can get to the next steps."

Yesterday Clarke announced he is also tied to the embarrassing report. He said he recently discovered that, due to an accounting error, he was one of the 28 unnamed MLAs who "double dipped" on expenses.

He said both a claim and payment went through twice, in October 2008 and January 2009. Clarke said while the second payment was noticed by accounting staff, the second reimbursement slipped through.

"I claimed for, I believe, 200 certificate forms, three small prints of province house and 36 mugs that were all given away," said Clarke.

Clarke said the double expensing was "not intentional, it was an error." He said he only found out about it when he personally contacted the speaker's office.

Only two of the other 27 MLAs who double dipped have come forward — Premier Darrell Dexter and Tory Alfie MacLeod.

"In most cases, the duplicate claims occurred only once or twice per member," reads the report. But one unnamed MLA double dipped 10 times for a total of $3,072.

Speaker Charlie Parker initially said he would not release the partial list of names, but that changed when Premier Darrell Dexter returned from vacation Monday and asked for the names to be made public.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Nova Scotia's auditor general Jacques Lapointe answers questions at a press conference in this file photo from November. The Tories are calling for the release of the full letter from the auditor general to the Speaker of the House.

Grits accuse NDP of double standard on committees

POLITICS Fisheries Minister Sterling Belliveau's absence from a committee meeting shows an NDP double standard, Liberal MLA Andrew Younger alleged yesterday.

"When the NDP were in opposition ... (they) repeatedly called on ministers to appear before committees," said Younger.

"And yet we received a letter ... from (Belliveau's) deputy minister saying that it's government policy for ministers not to attend committee meetings."



Sterling Belliveau

Younger said Belliveau originally agreed to attend the Economic Development Committee meeting, but days later he sent a letter to the committee informing them he would not be able to make it.

"The appropriate people were at the table today to represent the department," said Department of Agriculture spokeswoman Celeste Sullivan, speaking on behalf of Belliveau. ALEX BOUTILIER/ FOR METRO HALIFAX

Arrest made after North Preston murder

MURDER The RCMP have made an arrest in this weekend's North Preston murder, but no charges have yet been laid.

A man turned himself in to police just before noon yesterday, but the force was releasing few other details.

"All I can tell you is a person of interest has been arrested and the investigation is still ongoing," said RCMP spokeswoman Const. Tamu Bracken.



Casey Downey

"Investigators will be attempting to question him."

Members of the Halifax RCMP responded to a residence on Downey Road, North Preston, after receiving two separate 911 calls just after 6:30 a.m. Sunday. When they arrived on scene, police found the body of 20-year-old Casey Marleen Downey inside the residence.

Bracken confirmed that a party was taking place that evening and many party-goers were questioned by officers.

Downey's death has been ruled a homicide by the Major Crime Unit, but police have not commented on how he died.

Bracken said more information may be available today. Police have a 24-hour window once an arrest is made to charge an individual or they must be released.

METRO HALIFAX

Yarmouth not yet giving up fight to keep ferry to Maine

ECONOMY The mayor of Yarmouth says the fight to keep the ferry service running between Nova Scotia and New England is far from over.

Phil Mooney says it's an economic generator that his community can't afford to lose.

Mooney says he is disappointed with Economic Development Minister Percy Paris's refusal to revisit the possibility of a subsidy for the service to keep it running this year.

He says Paris is ignoring the data that shows more than 45 local businesses will have to lay off more than 500 people if the ferry does not operate in 2010.

Mooney says his town has formed partnerships with other municipalities and will continue lobbying efforts aimed at both the provincial and federal governments.

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THURSDAY'S NETWORKING TEAM

Songstress Jenn Grant to perform with Symphony Nova Scotia
Local musician Jenn Grant is following up a cross-Canada tour by teaming up with Symphony Nova Scotia for a show Feb. 19 at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Grant is also bringing onboard special guest Buck 65 to perform A Million Years, a song they co-wrote. METRO HALIFAX

5-year transit plan gets council blessing

But road map implementation still requires approval in yearly budgets: Metro Transit GM

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After several lengthy detours, HRM's new five-year transit plan finally got the green light from regional council yesterday.

Council voted overwhelmingly in favour of accepting the plan in principal, bringing an end to months of debate and controversy surrounding the 358-page road map for future transit planning in the municipality.

"What we're trying to do is create a plan that is deliverable," Metro Transit general manager Pat Soanes told council. "The last thing I want to do is over-promise and under-deliver."

Back in October, municipal councillors debated the transit plan for several hours before sending it back to staff and asking for a supplementary report to answer some of their more pressing questions.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Metro Transit passengers get off a Metro Link bus in this file photo from 2008. Council approved a five-year transit plan yesterday.

The result was a much shorter document, distributed to councillors on Friday, which clarified Metro Transit's position on several issues, including rural transit, accessibility for the disabled and how much all of these changes would cost.

"We've spent a lot of time since October meeting with the councillors ... and I think that it was reflected in today's discussion," Soanes said after the meeting. "There was a greater degree of understanding amongst councillors about what this plan is designed to do."

According to Soanes, while the plan will help guide transit development, any actual changes or improvements to the system will still need to be approved in HRM's yearly budgets.

That may be a challenge, as council still has to figure out how to close a cumulative funding gap that could grow to $20 million within five years. Suggestions have included increasing transit fees, upping property taxes or seeking new advertising revenue — none of which have proven very popular in council chambers.

Sea levels to rise 73 cm by 2100: Experts

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RESEARCH The waters in Halifax Harbour are indeed rising, but don't start building your ark just yet.

A team of experts charged with studying sea-level rise in the harbour gave a detailed presentation to regional council yesterday, explaining that the current generation won't see a significant difference in water levels — but their children certainly will.

"We're looking at 73-centimetre apparent sea-level rise at the dock between 2000 and 2100," said Donald Forbes, a research scientist with the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. "This is probably an underestimate."

If levels do rise as much as predicted, said Forbes, a severe storm like hurricane Juan striking the city at high tide in 2100 could flood much of the naval dockyards, historic properties and Lower Water Street, causing extensive damage.


RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Georges Island and the Halifax Harbour are pictured in this file photo from Fenwick Tower. An examination of potential sea-level rise over the next 100 years in the harbour was presented to HRM council yesterday.

Roger Wells, HRM's supervisor of regional and community planning, said there's no need for panic, but the municipality does need to be proactive.

"Let's be aware that this is going to happen, and start to plan for it," he told council. "The costs of doing something now are going to be much less than if we wait and adapt after the fact ... This isn't rocket science."

The research team has already presented its findings to several developers, naval commanders and other stakeholders, said Wells, and they are using the information to inform how — and where — they build on the waterfront.

"Let's be aware that this is going to happen, and start to plan for it."
Roger Wells, HRM planning supervisor

Council was told that the municipality will also need to be "very careful" about the kinds of development it allows near the water's edge, and may eventually need to approve the construction of dikes and sea walls.

Coun. Jennifer Watts suggested Halifax should also be taking cues from other coastal communities around the globe.

"This type of scenario can be very bleak, and very scary," she said. "We need to look at how other people around the world are dealing with this. And this is another call to put real effort into being as sustainable as we can."

Disposal of yard waste in blue bags proposed

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COUNCIL Residents of HRM may soon be able to stuff their leaves and other yard waste into blue bags before hauling them to the curb.

Homeowners are already allowed to place leaves in clear, orange or paper bags for collection. Last night, Coun. Linda Mosher put forward a motion asking staff to look into allowing blue bags to become a fourth option.

"They're less expensive than the ones that we now require for leaves ... and so many people already have them sitting in their house," she said. "Anything we can do to enhance diversion of waste from landfills is good."

"(Blue bags are) less expensive than the ones that we now require for leaves ... and so many people already have them."
Coun. Linda Mosher

Other councillors said changing the system will only lead to confusion.

"We have a system that works," argued Coun. Bob Harvey. "No one in my district has ever asked for this."

In the end, council sent the matter to the municipality's solid waste committee for further debate.

News in brief

THEFT Staff at the Staples on Gottingen Street reported a man claiming he had a gun and taking off with an undisclosed amount of money. Nobody was hurt. He's described as a black male with a light complexion and average height and weight, wearing a multi-coloured scarf and black parka. METRO HALIFAX

Man turns himself in after plow rams into car

SACKVILLE Halifax RCMP have located the man who allegedly rammed his plow truck repeatedly into another vehicle at a gas station last week.

The incident took place last Friday at Wilson's Gas Stop on Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville, at approximately noon.

According to police, the man became enraged at a woman filling up her car, believing she had deliberately trapped him in. After yelling at the woman, he's alleged to have rammed his plow into her vehicle three to five times before driving away.

According to RCMP spokeswoman Const. Tamu Bracken, the man turned himself into police after hearing about the incident on the radio. No charges have been laid in relation to the incident. METRO HALIFAX

32 people charged with impaired driving in January

CRIME Halifax Regional Police continued their attempts to route drunk driving last month, charging 32 people and issuing four 24-hour suspensions.

Of the 32 charged with impaired driving, 30 were said to be under the influence of alcohol and two had allegedly used drugs, according to spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter.

A total of 36 incidents were investigated by police in January, half of which were called in by concerned citizens.

"Halifax Regional Police would like to thank those people who took the time to call us with the information that helped us get dangerous drivers off the roads," said Palmeter in a release. METRO HALIFAX

Nominations for student awards now open

Nominations are now open for the second annual Premier's Power of Positive Change Awards, which recognize young people having an effect on their schools and communities. Nova Scotians are encouraged to nominate students from primary to Grade 12 by March 31 at www.powerofpositivechange.ca. METRO HALIFAX

Jamieson quits N.B. Liberal caucus

A New Brunswick politician who was booted out of cabinet for challenging the premier's position on the proposed sale of NB Power assets to Hydro-Quebec is leaving the Liberal caucus.

Stuart Jamieson was tourism minister until he was asked by Premier Shawn Graham to resign last week after he called for a referendum on the proposed $3.2-billion sale of 10 power plants to Hydro-Quebec.

"I will continue to fight for the people of New Brunswick to have a say in this decision," Jamieson said yesterday in the legislature.

"I want to also state that I support the deal between NB Power and Hydro-Quebec although I feel a referendum is necessary for me to agree."

"I will continue to fight for the people of New Brunswick to have a say in this decision." Stuart Jamieson

Jamieson said he fears that the public will not support the deal unless they have a say in it.

He is also worried that the Opposition Conservatives could become the next government by default without ever outlining their own policy on NB Power.

Jamieson said he remains a member of the Liberal party, and will sit in the legislature as such, but will continue to fight for a referendum.

Jamieson said unless there is a referendum he will vote against the deal.

Last month, a number of other Liberals openly criticized the original $4.75 billion power deal, which included transmission and distribution systems. However, they were allowed to remain in cabinet, and Premier Shawn Graham then stated there was unanimous support of the amended deal.

Jamieson refused to tell reporters if any of his colleagues were also ready to break ranks. He said they would have to come forward on their own.

Graham said he is sticking by his decision not to hold a referendum.

"I'm more confident than ever that this is the right decision," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Nicholson says government to appeal drug-injection site ruling

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson says the federal government will appeal a British Columbia court ruling that sanctioned Vancouver's supervised drug-injection site. Nicholson says the decision raises important questions about the division of powers between the federal and provincial governments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



Feds in talks to buy border bridge

Transport Canada confirmed it has held talks with the owner of the Ambassador Bridge, which spans the Detroit River to connect Windsor, Ont., with Detroit. But a spokesman for Transport Minister John Baird says no offer has been made to buy the bridge from Manuel (Matty) Moroun. The federal government has purchased 38 hectares of land from the City of Windsor, at a cost of $34 million, to help build a new six-lane bridge down river from the Ambassador. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brown vote to jeopardize climate plan?

U.S. SENATE The recent upset election of a no-name Republican to Ted Kennedy's vacant Senate seat could pose a serious threat to joint Canada-U.S. efforts to tackle climate change, say current and former diplomats.

U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Jacobson and others say Republican Scott Brown's victory two weeks ago in Massachusetts poses serious Republican roadblocks to U.S. President Barack Obama's agenda — health-care reform and getting climate change legislation through Congress, not to mention battling the recession.

Brown's surprise victory in the heart of Democrat territory deprived the party of full control the U.S. Senate, dramatically reshaping the U.S. political landscape. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Williams a rising star: Ex-boss

Arrested colonel could have eventually commanded air force: Former chief

The air force colonel charged with two murders and two sexual assaults this week was "calm, hardworking and dedicated" and his former boss considered him one of the military's best and brightest.

Col. Russell Williams, 46, is charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of Jessica Lloyd, 27, of Belleville, Ont., and Cpl. Marie France Comeau, 38. Williams is also charged with forcible confinement, break and enter and sexual assault after two women were allegedly attacked during two separate home invasions in the Tweed, Ont., area in September.

Williams was "very intelligent, very mature, very calm, hardworking and dedicated — which is exactly why we selected him to be a wing commander," said retired lieutenant-general Angus Watt, the former air force chief who appointed Williams to his last military job. "He had the potential to go far. He was selected both on his performance and his potential."



THE CANADIAN PRESS/NATIONAL DEFENCE HANDOUT

Col. Russell Williams, right, lays a wreath at a Remembrance Day ceremony in Trenton, Ont. on Nov. 11, 2009.

Williams was amassing all the right stuff in his resumé to pave the way to bigger and better things, including Watt's old job.

He received a degree in economics and political science from the University of Toronto, and a master's in defence studies from Royal Military College.

He spent two years commanding 437 (Transport) Squadron in Trenton, including six months in 2005-06 as commanding officer of the military's secretive Camp Mirage, a logistics base on the Arabian Gulf that supplies the war effort in Afghanistan.

Williams was a flight instructor in Moose Jaw, served at Canadian Forces Base Shearwater in Nova Scotia and spent most of the 1990s in Ottawa, where he was a pilot to the prime minister and Governor General before Watt handed him command of the country's largest air force base, Canadian Forces Base Trenton in eastern Ontario.

"This didn't pop up overnight, this job for him," Watt said in an interview yesterday. "He's been in the military for 23 years; we've watched him over the course of his career in a wide variety of jobs.

"He's been tested before and that is why he was selected."

Watt said he had no reason to believe Williams wouldn't ascend further up the military ladder. The next step would have been brigadier-general.

When asked if Williams had the potential to command the air force, Watt's response was an unequivocal "yes." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Own The Podium seeks more funds from Feds

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

SPORTS The federal government says it will maintain its funding of Own The Podium beyond the 2010 Winter Olympics, but will not commit to spending more money on the program. Own The Podium is the $117-million, five-year strategy for Canada to win more medals than any other country at the Vancouver Olympics.

It was paid for with $66 million in taxpayer dollars. VANOC covered most of the remainder with corporate sponsorship money.

Minister of State Gary Lunn says the federal government will continue to fund both summer and winter sport at $47 million per year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca
Will Canada actually 'own the podium' if it wins the most medals? It depends on who you ask. Scan this code for the story.

Oda focused on long-term projects

Haiti Crisis

RELIEF EFFORT Canada's minister of international co-operation wants aid groups working in Haiti to prepare for the next phase of the relief effort: the rainy season.

At a meeting of the international Red Cross in Montreal, Bev Oda said yesterday that organizations will need to focus on longer-term reconstruction projects.

Shelter is a key concern. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PG 7



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Backless is so last season
The British government is getting behind a plan to replace drafty open-backed hospital gowns with versions that preserve patients' modesty. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Hospitals that charge will be cut off: UN

The United Nations has warned that it will cut off shipments of free medicine beginning immediately to any Haitian hospitals that it finds are charging patients.

When the catastrophic earthquake struck Jan. 12, authorities immediately decided to make all medical care free. More than 200 international medical relief groups have sent in teams to help, and millions of dollars of donated medicine has been flown in.

UN officials told The Associated Press that about a dozen hospitals — both public and private — have begun charging patients for medicine. The officials said they could not immediately provide the names of the hospitals but said they were in several parts of the country, including Port-au-Prince.

Haiti Crisis

UN workers and quake survivors were also keeping one eye on the sky. There's been no significant rain since the disaster, but everyone knows that won't last.

The rainy season in Haiti is deadly even in a good year. Now, in a devastated capital city, the early spring rains threaten to cause landslides and bring about health problems in the makeshift camps where more than 500,000 people are living.

"There will be health concerns," said engineer Mario Nicoleau of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Haiti's government said it needs more money or tents if people are to be moved.

"We are going to have a big problem when the rainy season starts," said Interior Minister Paul Antoine Bien-Aime. "We don't have $60 million to buy 100,000 tents." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington **Hands-on response to Palin**



CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs shoots back at former U.S. vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin yesterday, holding out his hand to show the media he has written down "eggs, milk, hope," and "change" (inset). In a speech Saturday, Palin criticized U.S. President Barack Obama for using teleprompters before being spotted with hand-notes of her own.

News in brief

AFGHANISTAN U.S. and Afghan forces pushed yesterday to the edge of the southern Afghan town of Marjah. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Fearful that Barack Obama's health care olive branch is a trap, Republican doubts may leave them vulnerable. Scan this code for the story.

Man jailed five years for questioning construction

CHINA An activist who investigated the deaths of thousands of children crushed in their schools during the 2008 Sichuan earthquake was sentenced yesterday to five years, underscoring the government's determination to suppress questions about why the buildings fell. Tan Zuoren, 56, was convicted of inciting subversion of state power and handed the maximum sentence of five years' in prison.

Tan and others have raised the possibility that shoddy construction — possibly fostered by corrupt officials who failed to enforce building codes — caused some schools to collapse in the quake while buildings nearby remained intact. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

5 reasons to suspend your 'belief'

TheWestView



With three days to go, the Olympic propaganda machine is popping more than a few bolts to get everyone to "Believe."

"Believe" means something like: Forget these Games are billions over budget and will put British Columbia in a deep hole for generations. Concentrate instead on winning the gold medal in hockey, and make all the bad feelings go away.

Looking back, it's hard not to believe Vancouver would have been better off if the Games had gone to PyeongChang, South Korea, after all.

In honour of the Olympic rings, here are five reasons to believe in PyeongChang:

5 The Olympic mascots are endangered or non-existent species. Miga is a cross between an Orca and a Kermode bear, one threatened, the other rare; Sumi is a non-entity, Quatchi is a variation on the quasi-mythical Sasquatch, and Mukmuk, the only "real" animal in the menagerie (only a sidekick to boot), is a near-extinct Vancouver Island marmot. Somehow this says it all.

4 The Games will cost at least $6 billion. But, we're asked to believe, the net economic benefit of the Games will be $10 billion. If you believe that, would you like to buy one of these cute, cuddly Sasquatches? And speaking of legacies, what are we going to do with a $104.9 million toboggan slide?

3 The entire world now knows our dirty little secret: The best city on Earth has one of the poorest neighbourhoods on Earth — the Downtown Eastside. Imagine what it would look like if we spent $6 billion on housing the homeless, treating the addicted and providing care for the kids.

2 Why hold the Winter Olympics where there's no winter? Vancouver is the warmest venue ever for the Winter Games, with an average February temperature of five degrees. So they're trucking in snow from the interior and dumping it on the daffodils of Cypress Bowl. What's wrong with this picture?

1 What does it avail a city to own the podium and lose its soul? Vancouver is a billion dollar police state: Surveillance cameras; dissenters turned away at the border in violation of the Charter of Rights. This is our home, and instead of "believing," we should spend a minute and actually think about what we've given up ... and what we get in return.

Do you believe in Vancouver 2010? Share your views at: metronews.ca/thewestview

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Do you think the Own the Podium program will result in Canada leading the Winter Olympic medal count for the first time?

Ahmed Ahmed
Halifax
A: They have a good chance, but it's going to be tough. The other countries are watching us. The Europeans, probably the Germans (will finish first).

April Aylward
Halifax
A: I think we have an awesome chance of being first place. We have enough spirit at least that we should get it.

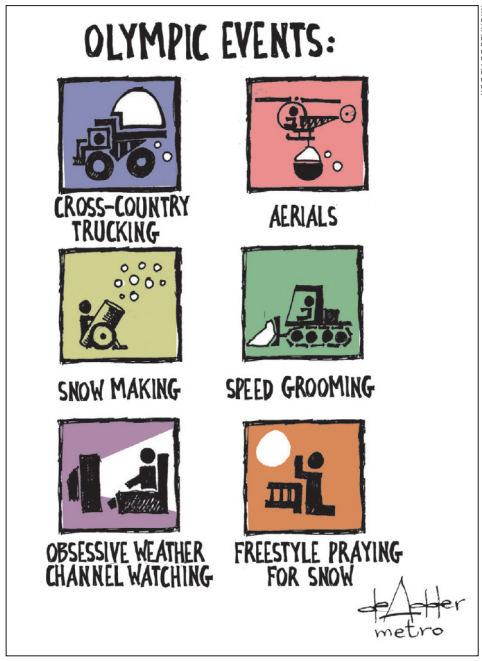
Bev Nickerson
Halifax
A: I think it's actually better than years before. I hope so. I'm rooting for them. I think they'll win in sports like figure skating and hockey — both men's and women's.

Pouyan Foroughi
Toronto
A: I hope so. I don't know if the amount of money you spend will actually get you results, but it would be a shame if it didn't.

Alex Krewiak
Calgary
A: I think it's better than nothing, but we could be doing more to help out our athletes.

Noel Ramirez
Surrey
A:Yes definitely. They can just think about their sport when they don't have to work and support themselves.





MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Integrated Asset Management Corp. triples earnings
Higher performance fees boosted Integrated Asset Management Corp.'s first-quarter revenues. The Toronto-based company booked net income of $1.6 million in the period ended Dec. 31. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA



PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Molson Coors, maker of Coors Light beer, said yesterday its fourth-quarter profit more than doubled because of favourable tax benefits even as it sold fewer beers.

Molson doubles profit

BEER Molson Coors Brewing Co.'s fourth-quarter profit more than doubled because of favourable tax benefits even as it sold fewer beers, the international brewer said yesterday.

Worldwide volume sold of the company's beers, including Blue Moon and Coors Light, fell four per cent as people cut back on their purchases. Still, higher prices helped drive an 11 per cent rise in net sales to $820.8 million.

Shares listed on the New York Stock Exchange rose 69 cents to $42 in premarket trading. Molson Coors Canada shares listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange closed Monday at $43.85.

Montreal- and Denver-based Molson Coors has seen sales slip in its strongholds of Canada and Britain amid weak economies. People are feeling pinched so they're less likely to splurge on items like beer or go out to bars and restaurants.

That's forcing companies to drop their prices to compete, but Molson Coors has held firm on some pricing, particularly in Britain.

The brewer earned $218.2 million, or $1.17 per share in the quarter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sales in Canada

- Sales to retailers fell 1.2 per cent in the quarter, slightly better than the industry in Canada. Costs fell three per cent as prices to make and sell beer dropped. Coors Light grew, but Molson Canadian, Dry and export brands fell.

Toyota issues recall

Prius, Lexus get software update for brakes

The dent in Toyota's reputation deepened yesterday when the reeling auto giant announced two more recalls to eliminate the possibility of momentarily failing brakes in hybrids and leaking brake tubes in another model.

Toyota Canada said the company would conduct a voluntary safety recall on the 2010 flagship hybrid, the Prius, and the Lexus HS 250h sedan to "update" software in the anti-lock brake system so it would get rid of inconsistent brake feel that has alarmed some drivers.

Toyota also disclosed that it would launch a recall on some 2010 Camry models to inspect conditions that could trigger a brake fluid leak and increase stopping distances for motorists.

The company will send notices to the 3,582 owners of Prius and HS250h hybrids and 393 drivers of the early production, four-cylinder Camry models for the free repairs and inspections.

Although the latest recalls don't involve a high number of cars, they mark the third and fourth time that Toyota has sent notices for repairs in less than three months.

The latest notices involving the hybrids are part of a global recall of 437,000 vehicles in several countries including the U.S. and Japan.

Toyota acknowledged last week that some owners of the new Prius and Lexus HS 250h models reported that their brakes didn't react for a few seconds after they applied them particularly on rough or slippery roads.

Toyota had made the software change to improve brake response times and sensitivity to tire slippage on the Prius production line in Japan but didn't indicate what it would do for thousands of models already on the road until yesterday's move.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Reputation hit

- A Canadian Press-Harris Decima survey shows almost three in 10 Canadians would think twice about purchasing a Toyota, following the world-wide recall over faulty gas pedals.

m.metronews.ca

SCANLIFE

As Toyota wears an apologetic public face, its lawyers work the halls of Congress to salvage their reputation. Scan this code for the story.

Business in brief

STOCK The Toronto stock market moved sharply higher yesterday as optimism increased that a fix is on the way for a potentially dangerous debt crisis facing some European countries, particularly Greece. The S&P/TSX composite index surged 152.2 points to 11,267.5. The Canadian dollar was up 0.48 of a cent to 93.55 cents US. Stock markets have lost ground recently over fears about unsustainable debt loads taken on by some European countries, Spain, Portugal and Greece chief among them.

TECH Google Inc. is shaving $200 off the fee that it charges customers of its new Nexus One phone to break a service contract with T-Mobile, as federal regulators continue to probe such fees and the rationale for them. Google's "equipment recovery fee" applies to customers who break their two-year contract before 120 days.

THE CANADIAN PRESS





By the numbers

According to the 20th annual RBC RRSP poll, half of Canadians (54 per cent) expect their pensions — whether a pension from an employer (29 per cent) or a government pension (25 per cent) — to be the single, largest source of income in retirement. METRO NEWS SERVICES

RRSP Guide



Don't forget

The deadline for making contributions to your Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) for the 2009 tax year is March 1, 2010. That means you only have 19 days left!

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

What's your investing strategy?

Consider age, status when deciding on goals: Experts

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Smart investing is crucial at any age and marital status, though your goals and strategies are going to be different along the way.

Tom Hamza, president of the Investor Education Fund, says for most people age is an important indicator of where their financial goals are aimed and you'll want to increase the number of income-generating investments you hold as you get older.

"There are life stages and your investment portfolio should always match the stage of life you're in. A great rule of thumb is that the fixed-income part of your portfolio should equal your age — that's something that should consistently change," Hamza said.

Young investors should pay off their debts first in order to free up income for investing, while older ones should focus on protecting their capital.

"For young people, if you have outstanding debts like student loans or credit card debt, tackle those first. Make sure your house is in order first, then focus on paying ahead. As you get older, you'll want to reduce risk and have more sources of reliable income," Hamza said.

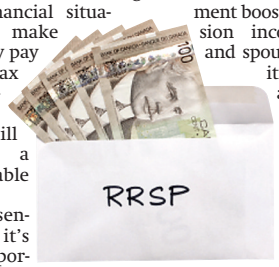


Your investment portfolio should always match the stage of life that you're in, financial experts advise.

Next week's lineup

SPOUSAL RRSPS For advice from the experts on how to make the most of your spousal RRSP, pick up Metro's next RRSP Guide on Feb. 17.

Christine Van Cauwenberghe, director of tax and estate planning at Investors Group, says seniors and retirees need to take special care to navigate the tax system because maximizing the use of their saved money is paramount at that stage in their lives. Seniors should speak with an investment adviser to figure out how to arrange their financial situation to make sure they pay as little tax as possible while still drawing a comfortable income.



"For seniors, it's very important to minimize your net income. If you just rearrange a few things, you can often save a lot of money," Van Cauwenberghe said.

For couples, Van Cauwenberghe says marriage or a common-law situation can offer a wealth of investment boosts, such as pension income splitting and spousal RRSPs, but it can also create new challenges so make sure you speak with an expert.

Hamza says for couples where one person earns significantly more than the other, options exist to split income away from the higher earner to the lower one, lowering taxes in the process.

"You want to make sure the higher income earner pays fewer taxes," he said.

No matter what your age or marital status, however, don't treat your tax return as a spending bonus — if possible, reinvest it instead.

"For many people, it will make sense to take that tax return and apply it to other investments to get more bang for your buck — don't just use it as spending money," Hamza said.

"The fixed-income part of your portfolio should equal your age — that's something that should consistently change."
Tom Hamza, the Investor Education Fund

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By the numbers
According to the 20th annual RBC RRSP poll, 68 per cent of Canadians feel having enough money for a comfortable retirement is the most important consideration when retiring. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Borrowing to invest an option

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada



One way to maximize your RRSP contributions is to get an RRSP loan — but this option may not be for everyone, experts warn.

One way to maximize your RRSP contributions is to get an RRSP loan, but professionals in the industry warn this is not for everyone.

"It all depends on your tax rate, your expected rate of return and how fast you're going to pay off the loan," said Jamie Golombek, CIBC's managing director of tax and estate planning.

When you borrow to put money into an RRSP, the interest on the loan is not tax deductible, so it can become quite expensive, he said.

You may end up paying more interest to the loan than you'll make on the RRSP, especially if it's in a daily interest account or GIC.

"But if you have a higher rate of return (on the RRSP), then it may make some sense," he said.

Kevin Cork, certified financial planner based in Calgary, says if you're considering a loan to contribute, think about your saving style.

"For some people, getting an RRSP loan isn't really the ideal system because there's always going to be debt to the loan," he said.

For others, who are better at paying down debt than saving, it's a viable option.

It's all about carrots and sticks, he said.

"They need that stick of the fact that they owe this money," he said.

If you decide to get a loan to contribute, Susan Howe, regional financial planning consultant with RBC, says go for a line of credit or apply for an RRSP loan, which is specifically designed for contributing to your RRSP and will likely have favourable interest rate terms.

Whichever way you decide to go, Howe said it's imperative to ensure you have the means to carry the loan debt.

"The key is that you have to have the available cash flow to support those payments."
Susan Howe, RBC

"The key is that you have to have the available cashflow to support those payments in view of whatever else might be going on in your financial picture," she said.

Alim Dhanji, certified financial planner with Assante Financial Management in Vancouver, recommends anyone considering borrowing to contribute to their RRSP proceed with caution.

"If you can pay the loan back right away, then I am OK with it," he said. "Otherwise, I generally don't like people getting behind and always borrowing to catch up."

Rather than paying off debt, Dhanji recommends setting up monthly contributions to an RRSP because it creates good habits.

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Investing tip

Diversify: Putting your money in a variety of investments provides exposure to a wider range of opportunities and limits the negative effects of a downturn in one market or asset category. NEWS CANADA

Common errors avoidable, experts suggest

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

With the pressure mounting to sock away money in an RRSP, people run the risk of making common errors in self-directed accounts, experts say.

Jason Schella, the Bank of Montreal's regional sales manager for Atlantic Canada, says the most common mistake is investing without an overall financial plan.

"How can I do the right investing if I don't know exactly where I have to get to?" he says when reached by cellphone en route from Fredericton to Halifax. Identify your financial destination before plotting the map, he urges.

A second error is buying high and selling low — the opposite of what you'd want to do. When a stock is hot, people snatch it up. When it's falling, they drop it. A savvy investor will plug wax in his ears and ignore the siren song of hot or cold tips.

"Time in the market is more important than timing the market," Schella advises.

In the land of Earl Jones Ponzi schemes, Schella says it's safest to stick with big-name financial institutions if you use a financial adviser.

"(The bank) is still going to be there, even if one of the individuals wants to go to the Caribbean," he jokes.

David Shymko, an investment counsellor at Vancouver's Macdonald, Shymko & Company, says a common mistake is investing for too long a term in government or corporate bonds.

"If there's an expectation for inflation, those bonds will go down in value," Shymko says. "There is capital risk associated with investing too long when the expectation of interest is rising."

If you're going to go with speculative stocks, hold them personally, not in your RRSP. They regularly fluctuate and when you have a loss in an RRSP, it's forever, he says.

"There's no way you can get any tax savings for a capital loss in an RRSP."

Another problem he sees is people opening too many accounts as they chase the best deal each year.

"They get this whole mishmash of accounts and they're often paying an annual fee for each account," Shymko explains. Consolidate to one or two accounts.

Some people even wind up with too large an RRSP. Because the tax-shielded money has to come out eventually, investors may find themselves "stuck in the highest tax rate forever."

Keep an eye on your final financial destination to avoid that.



A common mistake is investing without an overall financial plan, experts say. It's difficult to grow your money if you don't have goals in mind.

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Cashing out early not ideal

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

If you're strapped for cash and don't know where to turn, withdrawing from your RRSPs should be the last resort.

"This would be similar to cashing in a pension plan early; you are really affecting your future ability to take care of yourself," said Kevin MacLeod, certified financial planner and president of MoneyAdvisor.ca Financial Ltd.

Jeff Young, senior manager of financial planning support for RBC, says a lot of people don't understand the power of the long-term compounded interest on an RRSP.

And there are a number of penalties that accompany cashing out those funds before retirement.

"Upon immediate withdrawal, there will be a withholding tax," he said.

The institution housing your RRSP is required to withhold a certain percentage of the money withdrawn: 10 per cent for any amount up to $5,000; 20 per cent for amounts between $5,001 and $15,000; and 30 per cent for any amount over $15,000.

Young said some financial advisers may suggest clients withdraw funds in $5,000 chunks to avoid the higher withholding tax, but this method is not the way to go.

"The (Canada Revenue Agency) has come out explicitly and stated that they don't support that approach," he said.

"Some institutions may not even do it."

After the withholding tax, the sum withdrawn is taxed at the individual's taxation rate; it's added to whatever other income accumulated that year.

There is no way to avoid the tax payable on an RRSP — all you can do is defer it, said MacLeod.

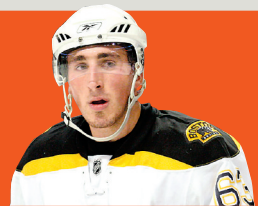
"When you file your income taxes the following year, the entire amount of your withdrawal is included in your income," he said. "At that point, you either pay the additional tax you owe or collect a refund if what was withheld was too much."

Finally, if you have no other option but to withdraw from your RRSPs, Young says you should think long and hard about it first.

"Think about, 'How much do I need?', and don't take out any more than that," he said.

Huskies 10th in CIS rankings
The Saint Mary's Huskies are holding down 10th spot in the latest Canadian Interuniversity Sport's men's hockey ranking. The Huskies, 14-8-4, are third in Atlantic University Sport and have clinched a playoff spot. METRO HALIFAX

Sports



Marchand's makes smooth return

Brad Marchand of Hammonds Plains hasn't missed a beat since returning from foot surgery. The Providence Bruins forward, who made his NHL debut in October, has nine points in eight AHL games and 24 points in 24 games overall. METRO HALIFAX

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Clarke proving a point

Herd D-man doing all he can to show his commitment

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Garrett Clarke was on the verge of throwing up when he stepped off the ice at the Halifax Forum on Monday.

"I wish I would have — I'd probably feel better," said a weary Clarke, after being one of the last Halifax Mooseheads to emerge from the dressing room after practice.

"I'm just working as hard as I can and if I have to throw up at the end of it, I guess it shows I'm doing that."

Clarke, the Mooseheads' most productive defenceman at just 17 years of age, has plenty to prove this week after being benched for two periods on Saturday by head coach Cam Russell for his ongoing inability to stay disciplined.

He had taken eight minor penalties in four games, including two resulting in power-play goals and one that cost the Mooseheads an upset win over the Saint John Sea Dogs.

With the P.E.I. Rocket visiting the Metro Centre tonight at 7 p.m., Russell is making Clarke sweat.

While it's probable Clarke will play, Russell called it a game-day decision.

Clarke has been doing whatever he can not to sit.

"I'm trying to show the coaches I'm committed," said Clarke, a Moncton native. "I'm giving it my all in practice."

The six-foot 198-pounder was drafted sixth overall in the 2008 QMJHL draft by the Lewiston Maineiacs before requesting and receiving a trade to Halifax last summer.

He has five goals and 15 assists for 20 points in 36 games, while his team-high 69 hits and 130 penalty minutes are an indication of the nasty physical edge he offers.

Clarke says he's "pretty much on a first-name basis" with most of the referees in the league, but recognizes he's been making it too easy for them to whistle him for calls.

"I start to get frustrated sometimes when stuff isn't going my way," he said. "I have to stay below that line, stay composed out there, and not take too many penalties."

The Mooseheads have pegged Clarke and his rare skillset as a cornerstone for their future and hope he learns from this. Clarke says he's ready to live up to their expectations.

"I've got to do it day-in, day-out and work my way back into one of the top spots on the team," he said.

"I'm just working as hard as I can and if I have to throw up at the end of it, I guess it shows I'm doing that."
Halifax defenceman Garrett Clarke

Stats matter

- Rarely has a Mooseheads defenceman made a statistical impact like Garrett Clarke at the same age. The 17-year-old's 20 points in 35 games place him fifth in franchise history for bluliners aged 17 and younger and the players ahead of him on the list — Didier Tremblay, Alexandre Picard, Andrew Gilby and Andrew Bodnarchuk — recorded their totals in no fewer than 65 games. His points-per-game average (0.555) is a fraction behind Tremblay's franchise-best 0.558. Clarke also has nine fighting majors, which is sixth in Mooseheads history for a player aged 17 and younger.

For more Mooseheads coverage visit Matthew Wuest's Q Files blog at www.metronews.ca/qfiles.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX FILE PHOTO

Moncton native Garrett Clarke was benched by head coach Cam Russell for the majority of Saturday's game for his inability to stay disciplined.

Sports in brief

AUS SWIMMING Halifax's David Sharpe has been named Atlantic University Sport's male athlete of the week. The Dalhousie Tigers freshman won four individual events and three relays at the AUS championships on the weekend. Dal swimmer Kristen Vandenberg took the women's honour.

QMJHL Val-d'Or Foreurs defenceman Marco Scandella has been suspended for 15 games for a hit to the head against Rimouski Oceanic forward Alexandre Durette on Feb. 3. Scandella was a member of Canada's world junior team.

METRO HALIFAX

SCOREBOARD

PBL

	W	L	PCT	GB
Puerto Rico	8	0	1.000	—
HALIFAX	**7**	**2**	**.778**	**1.5**
Lawton-Fort Sill	5	2	.714	2.5
Rochester	5	2	.714	2.5
Vermont	2	4	.333	5
Buffalo	3	6	.333	5.5
Manchester	2	6	.250	6
Maryland	2	6	.250	6
Quebec	1	7	.125	7

SUNDAY
Manchester at HALIFAX, 4 p.m.

Tigers still working towards 'identity'

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

AUS BASKETBALL At some point, before the second week of March, the Dalhousie Tigers are going to have to figure out a way to beat Atlantic University Sport's top dogs.

The Tigers, last year's AUS men's basketball champions, have a 10-6 record this season and have already clinched a spot at the Final 6 in Sydney from March 12 to 14.

But four of their losses came at the hands of the undefeated St. Francis Xavier X-Men (14-0) and the other two came against the first-place Cape Breton Capers (14-1).

"Some of that's us, some of that speaks to the strength of those two teams," said Tigers head coach John Campbell.

Fourth-year guard Simon Farine, last year's Final 6 MVP, continues to shine for the Tigers, second in conference scoring with a 22.1 points-per-game average. Six-foot-nine centre Joseph Schow, a transfer from the Calgary Dinos, is next with 13.8 points, but nobody else is in double digits.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE

Dalhousie's Simon Farine, right, is second in conference scoring with 22.1 PPG.

Campbell said he's "relatively pleased" and wants to see improved consistency and toughness from his team.

"We're still working toward establishing our identity as a team," Campbell said. "We're still trying to get into a definitive playing rotation for the players, and finding consistent scoring beyond (Farine and Schow) has been a challenge."

The Tigers have four games remaining, including two against the rival Saint Mary's Huskies, who are third at 11-5. The two teams meet on Saturday at 8 p.m. at Dalplex.

"Our hope is to put ourselves in the best position we can going into (Final 6) weekend," Campbell said. "Hopefully, we'll be healthy enough and confident enough to put together one win at a time and enough wins to win a championship."

No minimum number of players rule is needed, says Levingston

PBL Eight is enough in the Premier Basketball League according to Halifax Rainmen owner Andre Levingston.

Levingston was unfazed on Sunday after the Buffalo Stampede showed up with just eight players for a game against the Rainmen. The Rainmen won handily, taking advantage of the Stampede's woefully short bench in the second half.



Rainmen owner Andre Levingston

Most of the Rainmen players agreed afterward that Buffalo's small roster was the difference in the game.

But when asked if the PBL should institute a rule forcing teams to travel with a minimum number of players, Levingston said no, pointing out the Stampede made a number of recent roster changes and some new signings hadn't arrived.

"If you don't have 'em, you don't have 'em," he said. "If (players) are in transition and haven't arrived with the club, there's nothing you can do about it. All they need is five."

The Stampede has played three of nine games with just eight players. Two of those games were this past weekend in Canada and the other was their visit to Puerto Rico.

The Rainmen carry 14 players, with two — Devon Norris and Lonnell Shuler-Jones — on the practice roster in the event of injuries or last-minute changes. Levingston said the Rainmen would "never" take a road trip shorthanded as did the Stampede, but said "we're in a different situation."

MATTHEW WUEST/
METRO HALIFAX

Peppers cools on long-term deal

Julius Peppers no longer wants a long-term contract with Carolina, saying the Panthers have ignored him this off-season. In an interview on a Charlotte radio station the defensive end indicated he's irritated by the team's "silence" and has changed his stance on whether he wants to continue his career in Carolina. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GM sends positive message to Plekanec

Impending unrestricted free agent indicates he wants to remain with Canadiens

The Montreal Canadiens are still dealing with the surprise of hearing their general manager was stepping down, but one of their key players was pleased with the message sent by the man taking his place.

New GM Pierre Gauthier announced in his first press conference Monday that a dialogue had been opened with the Habs' leading scorer Tomas Plekanec, an impending unrestricted free agent.

A day later, Plekanec said it was comforting news when his agent Rick Curran informed him that a conversation had taken place with Gauthier.

"That's nice to know that they talked, they had a one-on-one phone call and talked about what our position is and what their position is," Plekanec said after practice yesterday. "It's nice to know and we'll see how it works out."

"I love it here, it's my second home. I don't see myself right now playing somewhere else."
Tomas Plekanec

Plekanec was clear, however, that it did not mean the Canadiens had entered into negotiations with him.

"I don't think they have really started yet," he said. "It was just one phone call. So we'll see."

Plekanec was 18th in the NHL in points entering last night's games, with 15 goals and 43 assists. Among players who will become unrestricted free agents on July 1, only San Jose's Patrick Marleau and New Jersey's Ilya Kovalchuk had more points than Plekanec, who also plays a dual role as Montreal's best penalty-killer.


RICHARD WOLOWICZ/GETTY IMAGES

Tomas Plekanec has 15 goals and 43 assists for 58 points this year — good enough for 18th in the NHL entering last night's action.

If he were allowed to hit the open market, Plekanec would likely at least double his $2.75 million US salary.

But he says he would rather not go down that road.

"If we can agree on everything, I would be more than happy to stay here and play for the Montreal Canadiens," he said. "I love it here, it's my second home. I don't see myself right now playing somewhere else."

Another area where Gauthier showed his cards was his plan to keep both his young goalies at the trade deadline, taking a heap of pressure off the shoulders of both Jaroslav Halak and Carey Price.

Head coach Jacques Martin was relieved that it would not serve as a distraction to the team leading up to the March 3 deadline.

"I think that was good of Pierre, and I think he spoke with both individuals," Martin said. "I've always said that we feel that's the strength of our hockey team, to have two netminders that can do the job, to have a healthy competition." THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ottawa 3 Calgary 2
Tampa Bay 3 Vancouver 1
Carolina 4 Florida 1
Chicago 4 Dallas 3 (SO)
N.Y. Islanders 4 Nashville 3 (SO)
Boston 3 Buffalo 2 (SO)
St. Louis 4 Detroit 3 (SO)

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

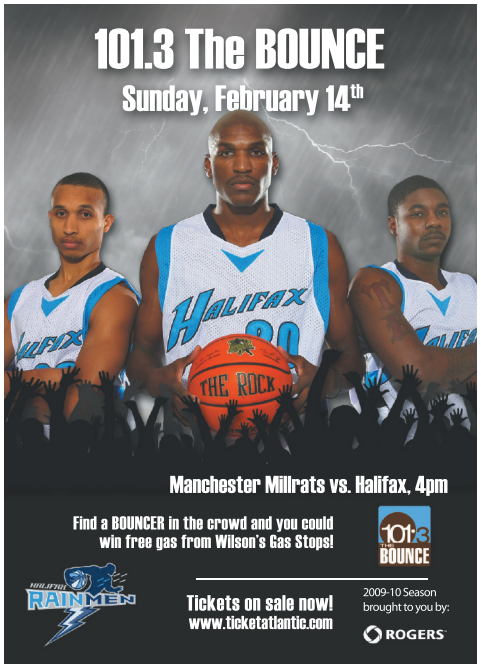
Atlanta 108 Memphis 94
Charlotte 94 Washington 92
Chicago 109 Indiana 101
Cleveland 104 New Jersey 97
Denver 127 Dallas 91
Detroit 93 Milwaukee 81
Miami 99 Houston 66
Philadelphia 119 Minnesota 97
Sacramento 118 New York 114 (OT)
Oklahoma City at Portland
Utah at L.A. Clippers

Sports in brief

AHL Pro hockey will return to Oklahoma City starting next season. Representatives of Prodigal Hockey LLC and the NHL's Edmonton Oilers said yesterday that Oklahoma City will be the home of the Oilers' American Hockey League franchise, which has been dormant since 2005.

SOCCER Edmonton has been awarded a franchise in the North American Soccer League. FC Edmonton will begin play in the 2011 season.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Bruins edge Sabres in shootout

NHL RESULT

Boston 3 Buffalo 2 (SO)

David Krejci scored the winner in the third round of the shootout, and rookie Tuukka Rask made 43 saves to help the Boston Bruins beat the Buffalo Sabres 3-2 last night.

The Sabres are winless in five.

Daniel Paille scored twice in regulation for Boston (25-22-11), which has won two straight after enduring a 10-game winless streak.

Derek Roy and rookie Tyler Myers scored for the sliding Sabres (32-18-8), who are just 2-7-2 in their last 11 games.

Ryan Miller, the likely starter for the U.S. when the Olympics begin next week, made 32 saves.

After Buffalo's Jason Pominville and Boston's Marco Sturm exchanged goals in the first round of the shootout, Krejci gave the Bruins the win with a wrist shot that beat Miller.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


DAVID DUPREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston goalie Tuukka Rask makes a save under pressure from Buffalo's Jochen Hecht during last night's action in Buffalo, N.Y.

One man, two teams: Lions owner acquires Argos

CFL David Braley is now the owner of two CFL franchises.

The Toronto Argonauts announced last night that co-owners David Cynamon and Howard Sokolowski had reached an agreement to sell their club to Braley, who also owns the B.C. Lions. The move wasn't a surprise as it had been rumoured for weeks.

Braley is a Hamilton businessman who owns Orlick Industries Ltd., a leading auto parts manufacturer. A former owner of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, he took over ownership of B.C. in 1997.

CFL commissioner Mark Cohon dismissed concerns regarding the optics of having one man own two teams, or 25 per cent of the league.

"We'd rather have one guy with considerable means who loves the game sit atop two franchises than having a stop-gap measure and not get the right people into one of our most important franchises," Cohon said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Devils coping with ugly slide

LOSING Jacques Lemaire didn't want to describe his 20-minute, on-ice discussion with the New Jersey Devils as a pep talk.

It was just a coach stating the obvious at practice yesterday to a team that has lost four of its last five games and 10 of 14.

There was no shouting. No wild arm gestures. Maybe a couple of taps on the ice with his stick.

"Most of it was about winning battles, competing for pucks, being harder on pucks, working on the power play," forward Zach Parise said.

"Just things when you are going on stretches like this, what's causing it. There are just areas of our games to sharpen up."

The string of four losses in five games started with the Kings scoring twice in the final 1:46 in a 3-2 win a little more than a week ago.

"It's just like being brain dead for a little bit, and we are paying the price for it," goaltender Martin Brodeur said.

With three games left before the Olympic break, the Devils have seen their lead in the Atlantic Division dwindle to two points over the Pittsburgh Penguins, who have played one more game than New Jersey.

The Devils have led the division since Dec. 18.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court victory for Australian bobsledders
Australia's two-woman bobsled team may compete at the Vancouver Olympics after winning its appeal yesterday before the top sports court. The Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled the international bobsled federation did not apply its qualification rules properly. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Boot camp put team to the test

Canadian women spent 24 grueling days in Dawson Creek, B.C., last spring

Carla MacLeod's eyes filled with tears at the thought of one more session in the weight room. Beckie Kellar had to overcome her fear of bears. Jayna Hefford thought "What am I doing here?"

Whatever the Olympic Games throw at the Canadian women's hockey team now that they've arrived in Vancouver, nothing will be harder than the month they spent together near Dawson Creek, B.C., last spring.

Boot camp, as it is not-so-fondly called, tested the women physically and mentally for 24 days in May and June. In the process, they pushed past their limits and helped their teammates get past theirs.

When the players reconvened in Calgary in August to begin full-time training, they already had a strong base of trust and fitness to build on.

"They learned how to work through a lot of different things and things we might still be working through right now had we not done that," head coach Melody Davidson says.

Days that started at 7 a.m. and ended at 9 p.m. laid the foundation for physical and mental toughness that the players must draw on now that their final and biggest test is upon them. The Canadian women open the Olympic tournament Saturday against Slovakia at Thunderbird Arena.

Running, rock climbing, kickboxing, yoga, weight sessions, triathlons, in addition to on-ice drills, kept the Canadian women on the go from morning until night. Towards the end of boot camp, they rode their bikes 35 kilometres into the mountains, hiked up one and back down before making the return trip on their bikes.

Exhaustion would eventually hit. The players had to find reserves they didn't think they had to continue. They also learned to recognize when teammates were struggling and what help they needed.

"We call it hitting the wall. You just bonked," MacLeod says. "In the 30 days, I probably hit a wall three different times, where I just wondered 'what is going on? This is crazy.'

"I think that's why it is such great team bonding. All of that's important. It's testing your limits. It's neat as a person to see how far you can go and how do you react when you are in your low of lows. Do you yell? Or do you retreat?"

Boot camp has become standard for Canada's Olympic women's hockey teams since they held one in Valcartier, Que., prior to the 2002 Games.

Carla MacLeod



"It's neat as a person to see how far you can go and how do you react when you are in your low of lows."
Carla MacLeod

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sponsor offers rich reward for luge gold

CASH After years of slumming it, Canada's Olympic luge team has a chance to move into sport's high-rent neighbourhood.

An Alberta sponsor has offered a $1-million prize to any Canadian luger who wins a gold medal at the Winter Olympics.

That's huge for us to be offered that sort of thing," Calgary's Alex Gough said yesterday, a few moments after learning about the golden carrot.

Sam Edney said the offer shows the potential of Canada's luge team.

"A year ago we had no title sponsor," said the Calgary resident, who is considered a threat in the men's event. Now we've got a group of people that believe in us so much they are willing to put that kind of money on the line."

The cash is being put up by Fast Track Group, a company which bills itself as a financial education specialist.

I guess I'm blessed financially and I wanted to share," company founder Darren Weeks said in a telephone interview from St. Albert, Alta.



JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary's Alex Gough competes during women's World Cup luge in Calgary on Nov. 21. A Canadian luge gold medal will be worth $1 million, thanks to a team sponsor.

The million-dollar prize would be split between the athlete and the Canadian Luge Association. There is only the single million-dollar windfall, so if athletes win more than one gold, they'll have to divide the money among themselves.

The company is also offering $50,000 for each silver and bronze medal. There will be a $5,000 reward for the top Canadian in men's and women's singles and doubles. The athletes can pocket all the cash.

The offer is not only for the Vancouver Games, but stands for the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Weeks said since becoming the team sponsor he noticed the disparity in the financial rewards received by some sports. Alpine skiers, figure skaters, snowboarders and speed-skaters can earn six-figure salaries in sponsorships.

Luge athletes live on the other side of the sliding track.

I was trying to level the playing field and give them more exposure," said Weeks. As an entrepreneur you do things on the spur of the moment. I thought, why not?"

Weeks has not taken out an insurance policy in case he needs to shell out the million.

A medal is considered a longshot, however, at least on paper. The team's best hopes are Gough and Edney.

Gough, 22, finished in the top six four times this year on the World Cup and was No. 4 at last year's world championships. Currently ranked seventh in the world, she was 20th at the 2006 Games in Turin.

Edney, 25, finished a career-best fifth to kick off this season and also posted a seventh-place finish. He was 12th in Whistler in the pre-Olympic test event last year and is ranked 15th in the world. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rookie commentators to call Games in many languages

BROADCASTS For Winter Olympics rookie Abel Charles, training for the biggest event in sports has involved sitting at home and yelling at a television as champion skiers perform daring flips in the air.

The mock play-by-play has been going on for months as Charles and several dozen newbie broadcasters gear up to debut as Canada's first official commentators to call an Olympic Games in a language other than English or French.

22 An unprecedented push by a multi-channel media consortium led by CTV and Rogers means these Games will air in 22 different languages, among them Mandarin, Polish, Ukrainian, Punjabi and South Asia's Gujarati.

Viewers accustomed to the rapid-fire play-by-play of seasoned vets like Harry Neale or Bob Cole will have to lend these novices a bit of leeway, says sports anchor Jim Van Horne, who's been coaching the aboriginal team in the lead-up to the Games.

"Raw is the word to describe them," Van Horne, a former TSN and Sportsnet anchor, says of the crew he's been training at APTN studios in Winnipeg.

"There might be maybe two or three that have a limited amount of broadcast experience, that have maybe done a little bit of hockey on radio, but I don't think any of them have television experience, virtually none."

It was hard enough finding fluent speakers willing to go on camera, let alone fluent speakers with a background in the winter sport involved, he notes.

"To find individuals who were fluent in their aboriginal languages and who had experience was virtually impossible — there just wasn't anybody," says Van Horne.

The commentators have diverse backgrounds. Some are singers and performers, says Charles, while others, like him, were scouted at small-town radio stations. NHL announcers Alex Chum and Bill Tang, meanwhile, jumped on board after pioneering Cantonese broadcasts for the CBC.

This time around, fans can catch skeleton in Tamil, luge in Bangla and long track in Urdu on Olympic partners including Omni, ATN and APTN.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Student builds 'smart camera' for automakers

A "smart camera" technology that can help increase a factory's efficiency has won its student designer the national AUTO21 TestDRIVE automotive research competition. Siddhant Ahuja, a PhD student at the University of Windsor in Ontario, received a $10,000 scholarship for his work on indoor real-time location tracking systems. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Metro Drive

Closer to World Car title

The first round of finalists for the 2010 World Car of the Year have been named. The winner will be announced at the New York International Auto Show. The 10 cars for World Car of the Year are the Audi Q5, BMW X1, Chevrolet Cruze, Kia Soul, Mazda3, Mercedes-Benz E-Class, Opel/Vauxhall Insignia/Buick Regal, Porsche Panamera, Toyota Prius and Volkswagen Polo. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

4Runner still got mojo

Toyota's SUV beauty also able to roll with the rough

NEIL MOORE
for Metro Canada



The 2010 Toyota 4Runner has been given a more rugged appearance to match its off-road ability.

Today's sport utility vehicles are a far cry from the boxed pickup trucks of yesteryear. Now offering the style and amenities demanded by the business executives and soccer parents who buy them, SUVs now seem more about comfort and style than they do about either sport or utility.

Sure, they offer four-wheel-drive, many also with four-wheel-lock and other traction control systems, but how many can truly take the pounding of serious off-roading?

With that question in mind, I jumped at the opportunity to put the all-new 2010 Toyota 4Runner SUV through the paces in the backwoods of Muskoka cottage country, during a recent launch event.

From all appearances, the current generation 2009 4Runner has become every bit as urban and posh as others in the intermediate-size SUV segment. And despite its roots — and current status — as an able off-roader, it doesn't look the part.

The newest 4Runner is taller, wider and longer than the '09, with pronounced, squarish fender flares, wide shoulders, masculine grille and overall, a no-nonsense, truck-like exterior.

At the heart of this new model is a new six-cylinder powerplant that replaces the fourth-generation's standard 3.5 litre V6 and optional 4.7 litre V8 engines. This 4.0 litre DOHC 24-valve V6, rated at 270 hp and 278 lb/ft of torque, is up by 34 hp and 12 lb/ft over the previous V6 and up 10 hp over the optional V8, while matching its 5,000 lb. towing capacity.

This engine also sees a five per cent improvement in fuel economy over the prior V6 and 17 per cent better than the previous V8. It is rated at 12.6/9.2/11.1 litres/100 km city/highway/combined.

Along with more oomph, the 2010 4Runner features an even more impressive ability to handle tough terrain.

Not that I'd take my own leather-lined, climate controlled 4Runner (if I had one) over muddy, rock and log strewn trails and through river beds. But it's nice to know I could.

I drove the Trail edition, one of five models that include the base SR5 at $36,800 (same price as '09), the Upgrade Package, Limited Package and Limited with Navigation Package.

The SR5 model comes standard equipped with eight-way power driver's seat; four-way power passenger seat; XM satellite-capable, eight-speaker audio system with Party Mode; running boards; multi-information display and a bevy of safety features.

2010 Toyota 4Runner

Type: Intermediate SUV
Price: (base SR5 model) $36,800
Engine: 4.0 litre DOHC 24-valve V6 (270 hp and 278 lb/ft of torque)

Highlights

- Impressive ability to handle rough terrain
- Plush interior


The Gladius 650.

Suzuki's Gladius 650 wins award

HONOURED Suzuki's latest middleweight motorcycle has gained one of the most prestigious awards in its home market, taking the honours in the motorcycle category of the famous Good Design Awards.

Launched in the spring of 2009, the Gladius 650 replaced the hugely popular SV650, going on to score highly with both press and customers.

Featuring a trellis-styled steel frame, curved bodywork and ancillaries along with bold colour options, the Gladius brought unique style to the Japanese naked middleweight segment.

With a chassis and bodywork designed to be slender, a low seat-height of just 785mm and strong attention to detail, the Gladius 650 is one entry-level machine that delivers both form and function.

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Atlantic FDA: 1595 Bedford Highway, Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 3Y4.

Cheap flights coming to Alaska?

Travel industry officials say more airline flights to Alaska this summer may boost competition and result in lower fares to some Lower 48 cities. Daily nonstop service to Anchorage flights have increased by 50 per cent. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel



Aspen adopting tourists

Find this ritzy ski resort a little snobby? Aspenites are working on it. A city tourism initiative announced this week seeks to shake off Aspen's unfriendly reputation, according to the Aspen Daily News. The Adopt a Tourist promotion has city officials asking residents to volunteer to play host for visiting tourists.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Delivering Excellence

Forget the flowers, head south for your Valentine's Day

JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN
For Metro Canada



JOHN NOWLAN/METRO CANADA



Horseback rides come complimentary while staying at Excellence resort. The Dominican coast line is considered to be some of the best in the world.

Flowers and chocolates may be ideal gifts for Valentine's Day but many couples are opting for a more exotic treat in a tropical, luxury setting.

All-inclusive Caribbean resorts that cater only to adults are becoming more popular with Canadians. Few do it better than Excellence Punta Cana at the far eastern end of the Dominican Republic.

The 450 room Excellence Punta Cana is about an hours drive from the modern, efficient thatched-roof airport, positioned in a series of low rise buildings along a half kilometre stretch of soft, golden sand.

Our late evening arrival didn't prevent a warm Dominican welcome with chilled glasses of sparkling wine in the lobby, a seamless check-in and, in our large suite (four-poster, king-size beds and marble floors are standard), a bubble bath in our double Jacuzzi with rose petals, candles and incense — a great romantic start to a week's vacation.

In the morning we awoke gentle sea breezes blowing through scores of dancing palm trees and a perfect 25 degree temperature. The breakfast buffet convinced us that this resort was special. In addition to the usual goodies (including excellent waffles, fresh-baked bagels and outstanding coffee) two types of caviar were offered as well as mimosa and Bloody Mary stations.

Couples only resort

Fine cuisine is beginning to set the Dominican Republic apart from other all-inclusive resort areas of the Caribbean.

One of the reasons Excellence seems to excel is its policy of a la carte dining every evening in its eight theme restaurants. There's also an emphasis on fresh, local produce. Choices include Chez Isabelle (French), Agave (Mexican), Barcelona (Mediterranean, including excellent tapas), Toscana (Italian), Spice (Pan-Asian), Oregana (informal pizza and pasta), The Lobster House (sadly, only Caribbean lobster) and The Grill steakhouse (the favourite of the meat-loving Greens from Edmonton).

Once a week there's also a Dominican night, usually on the beach, where chefs prepare local specialties including roast suckling pig.

Any couple wanting a special, romantic dinner by the sea can choose (at extra cost) a private, candlelit meal directly on the beach with a special menu, unobtrusive service, fine wines and an unbeatable ambience.

In the Caribbean, the sun is the same wherever you go.

The water is virtually the same. It's how you're treated that makes the difference.





Venice getting ready to party
Masked merrymakers are cavorting in Venice to mark the start of Carnival. The canal-laced city's pre-Lenten festivities are Italy's most popular. Venetian souvenir shops are crammed year-round with colourful, delicate masks, but Carnevale is the time to put them on. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Get yourself in the driver's seat

Alps resort offering Olympic-style bobsled rides to tourists

RICHARD MORIARTY
For Metro World

The advertisement persuading skiers enjoying the Alps to clamber into a bobsled and careen down a track at more than 120kph shows two smiling girls without a care in the world.

Like most marketing ploys it's not exactly a true reflection of how you feel as you hurtle into terrifying bends a couple of inches above the floor in something similar to a metal coffin. Smiling comes a poor second to hanging on for dear life

But having taken on the 1.5km course in Paradiski in the French Alps in one minute 10 seconds, I can assure wannabe daredevils that it is great fun — but it's difficult to smile when G-forces are trying to force your face through the back of your helmet.

Most people will see some bobsled events at this year's Olympics but the only way to find out just how scary the sport is to do it yourself.

That's how I found myself strapped in a Mono Bob (cost $103) on an ice-covered track which was used in the 1992 Albertville Olympics during a long weekend skiing.

When I got to the bottom and completed the most terrifying event in my life, I decided if given the chance again I'd take it.

But next time I might opt to be taken down the hill with a professional driver.


METRO WORLD NEWS

Fans of Olympic bobsledding will want to try out this course.



The Mono Bob ride costs $103.

Travel in brief

VACATION The 50 room all-suite luxury boutique resort Casa Colonial Beach & Spa, in Puerto Plata is offering discounted rates from April 8. The reduced rates also include a free fourth night of stay
METRO NEWS SERVICES

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^Save $50 per person, per segment (max. $100) on new bookings made from Feb 1 to Mar 15, 2010. Travel period from Apr 1 to Oct 31, 2010. Promotion for students only (student ID required). Cannot be combined with any other promotion. Not applicable on child rates, last minute bookings (bookings made 21 days prior to departure). See travelcuts.com for full details and gateways.

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Havana 7 Nights 4-Star from $439 + taxes & fees $196

California Air + Car from $529 + taxes & fees $128
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New York March Break
Air + 3 Nights from $529 + taxes & fees $106
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Mt Tremblant
Air + 3 Nights + Lift Ticket from $574 + taxes & fees $100
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Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star	from $997 + taxes & fees $259

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Sibide's mom singing in the subway

Although Gabourey Sidibe recently earned an Academy Award nomination for her performance in Precious, her mother — Alice Tan Ridley — is still singing in New York City subway stations to make money. "My name is not on Gabby's paycheck," Ridley told The NY Post. **POPEATER.COM**

Entertainment



TV Survivor

The host has spoken. Jeff Probst is staying on Survivor for its 21st and 22nd seasons.

PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

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Big love a man's job



Ashton Kutcher and Jessica Alba star in Valentine's Day.

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Whether you're lucky at love or anxiously looking, the upcoming romantic comedy Valentine's Day aims to analyze the swelling stress that squires a full day of devotion.

No matter on what side of the equation you sit, one such issue that the star-studded affair explores — which gender encounters the most pressure on Valentine's Day — found many of the film's actors definitely in agreement recently in L.A.:

SHE SAID

Jennifer Garner: "Men —unless you're in Japan. We've learned that in Japan, women choose a guy to give a chocolate to (on Valentine's Day) so the guy's just waiting to get the chocolate ... but here it's definitely the men. The men have to make it happen."

Valentine's Day opens Friday

Anne Hathaway: "I absolutely think it's women, of course! I have to side with my gender ... I just think it's so much pressure to find a red dress, to find a Valentine's Day-coloured dress. What if it's not in your color palate, what do you do?"

Jessica Alba: "It depends who you talk to. Generally, I think women get a little more excited about the idea of having a Valentine or a secret admirer or a boyfriend and guys — maybe not so much. But I know some guys who are totally into it and they're sad if they don't have a date on Valentine's Day."

HE SAID

George Lopez: "There's more pressure on men. That gear is stripped — the gear that tells us that 'hey, Valentine's Day is coming; you ought to get some cards a couple weeks in advance and properly sign them ... and not send a text.'"

Jamie Foxx: "Man, I just remember having those crushes (in school) and nothing like it going your way ... (one of my friends recently) bought (his Valentine) underwear. Not Victoria's Secret! Like drawers!"

Topher Grace: "I have been in the situation where you've been dating about two weeks; it hasn't even dawned on me that Valentine's Day is coming and this year I really should know but it kind of comes up on you and all of a sudden. It's this day about commitment and you have to make some kind of statement or non-statement — it's a lot of pressure for a guy."

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SECOND CUP

Warm your heart with these offbeat movies

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

Garry Marshall's Valentine's Day is merely the latest — and most explicitly titled — Hollywood rom-com with designs on blitzing the mid-February box office.

Its starry ensemble cast, which includes a pair of Taylors (Lautner and Swift) and two Jessicas (Alba and Biel), will probably entice plenty of couples to the multiplex, but our advice to cinema-loving lovebirds is to stay in, turn the lights down, and sample one of the more offbeat titles on the following list.

ADVENTURELAND

Greg Mottola's follow-up to Superbad was advertised as another crude crowd-pleaser, but it's a more delicate piece of work. There's a plausible slow-burn to the relationship between amusement park wage-slaves Jesse Eisenberg and Kristen Stewart, and the scene where they joy-ride bumper cars with a Cure song in the background should hit a bittersweet nerve with '80s babies.

BEFORE SUNSET

Celine (Julie Delpy) and Jesse (Ethan Hawke) go boating — and walking, driving and maybe to bed in Richard Linklater's sublime two-hander, a meditation on time and memory that might be the best brief encounter since Brief Encounter. It's also probably the best sequel ever made, narrowly edging out Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Claire Denis is one of the cinema's great sensualists, and her 2002 film about a young woman's last night of single-hood — and the handsome man she meets in the midst of a Parisian traffic jam — fairly tingles with visual pleasure: Under her gaze, even the late-night clean-up at an empty café feels like an enchanted moment.

TWO LOVERS

A troubled loner (Joaquin Phoenix) sets his sights on a blonde goddess (Gwyneth Paltrow) while dismissing the affections of a family friend (Vinessa Shaw). James Gray's tortured love triangle resonates with empathy for all its characters, and articulates the dark side of infatuation with real eloquence.

Fans falling for Vampire Diaries' love triangle

Ian Somerhalder would like to preface any conversation about the joy he finds in playing devious vampire Damon Salvatore with the following: "I am not a maniacal killer."

No, but the 31-year-old actor does have a few things in common with his bad-ass bloodsucker on The Vampire Diaries.

"Damon is a very lonely guy," Somerhalder empathizes. "We all know what it's like to feel lonely. And there are two relationships that he wants back — his brother and his girl."

The girl Damon aims to regain is Katherine, the spoiled vampire who turned Damon into a bloodsucker in 1864. She was captured soon after and locked away for eternity.

Damon's brother, Stefan, was also turned by and in love with Katherine, who happens to be the spitting image of Stefan's present-day, mortal love interest.

Somerhalder has found that messy love triangle is one of the main reasons fans are tuning in as well as writing tons of fan mail to him. "I mean, these young teen girls are so into the love aspect. They have so many questions about love. They're not confused. They're just so inquisitive about it." **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Films for females

Corus to launch two new movie channels

Corus Entertainment's female-oriented W Movie specialty channel will launch March 1 with a first-month lineup of films that includes You've Got Mail, When Harry Met Sally, and Shakespeare in Love.

The channel replaces SexTV, which Corus acquired last year from CTV Globemedia and almost immediately announced it would rebrand. Drive-In Classics, the other channel it bought from CTV in the deal for $40 million, also is getting a new face as a Canadian version of the Sundance Channel.

"With women's movie services representing one of the fastest growing genres in the U.S., we are thrilled to be able to offer Canadian audiences the first dedicated movie channel for women," Susan Ross, Corus's executive vice-president and general manager of specialty and pay television, said in announcing W Movies.

CW Media's Showcase Diva specialty channel also targets a female audience but blends movies with serial TV shows.



TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

Corus Entertainment's W Movie specialty channel launches March 1 with films like Shakespeare in Love (pictured).

"With the phenomenal success of women-oriented films at the box office, coupled with the huge popularity of our film blocks on W Network, we know that women have a real appetite for movies," added Ross.

Corus says the 24-hour-a-day channel will cater to women 25 to 54.

Corus Entertainment Inc. operates YTV, Treehouse, CosmoTV, VIVA, Movie Central, HBO Canada, Nelvana, Kids Can Press and radio stations including CKNW, CKOI and Q107.

It was only the most recent broadcaster to operate SexTV, which was started in 2001 by CHUM as a channel for "love, romance, marriage, relationship-themed game shows, sexuality and gender issues, family planning, relationship breakdown and magazine-style programming featuring romantic vaction resorts."

Visit wmovies.ca for more information.

THE CANADIAN PRESS







HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
2/10/10 primetime	31	31	31 ABC	News Center 5	World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Charlie Brown	The Middle (N)	Modern Family	Cougar Town	Ugly Betty (N)
	7	7	7 ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Degrassi: Next	TMZ (N)	Old Christine	The Middle (N)	*Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!* (2004)		
	11	11	11 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragons' Den (HDTV) (N)		Republic of Doyle (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2 CBC-F	Pyramide (SC)	Union-force	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Moment de vérité (SC)		Mirador (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32 CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Old Christine	Unmarried	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY
	69	69	69 CFTM	TVA nouvelles	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	Les Gags	Destinées (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Dr. House (SC)		TVA nouvelles
	6	6	6 CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	The Deep End (N)		Bones (HDTV PA)		Kitchen Nightmares (PA)		News Final (N)
	9	9	9 CJCH	etalk	Access H.	CSI: NY "The Formula"		Criminal Minds (N)		American Idol (HDTV) (N)		CTV News
	10	10	10 ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)		Fuelin' Around	Au Natural (N)	Doc Talk (N)	Fuelin' Around	Community Matters		
	36	36	36 FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Human Target "Run" (N)		American Idol (HDTV) (N)		Fox First
	12	12	12 NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Access H.	Extra (N)	Mercy "I Have a Date"		Law & Order: SVU		Law/Ord SVU
	29	29	29 NW	(6) Power & Politics		Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		Streakers
	4	4	4 PBS-B	PBS NewsHour (N)		Greater Boston	This Old H'se	Faces of America		The National Parks: America's Best Idea		
	35	35	35 PBS-D	PBS NewsHour (N)		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Faces of America		The National Parks: America's Best Idea		
	68	68	68 TQS	Guerre clans	Le Mur	Moi, mon amoureux (N) (SC)		Flashpoint (SC)		Terminator: Les Chroniques de		Guerre clans
news	23	96	96 BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call Tonight		The Close	Market Call	Squeeze Play		Business News
	18	18	18 CNN	(6) The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer (N)				Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
sports	54	54	54 GOLF	Golf Central	Play Lessons	19th Hole (HDTV) (Live)		Golf Videos	Golf Videos	Top 10 (N)	Top 10 (HDTV)	19th Hole
	52	52	52 RSE	Connected W-Prime Time		PartyPoker.net		MMA Conn	UFC: Access	The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)		Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55 SCOR	HSR	Covers Experts	College Basketball Connecticut at Syracuse. (Live)				College Basketball Duke at North Carolina.		
	45	45	45 SPD	NASCAR Racing			NASCAR Hub	NASCAR Racing			NASCAR Live	NASCAR
	53	53	53 TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey
family	43	43	43 FAM	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School
	44	44	44 TOON	Jimmy Two	Johnny Test	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad
	26	26	26 TREE	Timmy Time	3rd and Bird	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar
	27	27	27 YTV	iCarly	Sabrina-Witch	iCarly	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz
cable variety	16	16	16 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter
	70	70	70 APTN	APTN News	Cooking-Wlfmn	Sid vs. Alexander		Olympics: On Home Ice		The Great Tournament		Great Towns
	50	50	50 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live)				*The Great Debaters* ★★★ (2007, Docudrama) Denzel Washington.				
	37	37	37 BRVO	Emily of New Moon		Death at Opera	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	Bravo!FACT Presents		Wingfield	White Collar
	25	25	25 CMT	The Show (N)	CMT Star	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.
	49	49	49 COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Little Britain
	153	153	153 COURT	Situation Critical		The Investigators		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Special Forces: Untold Stories		Investigators
	38	38	38 DISC	Canada's Worst Driver		Daily Planet (N)		The Colony (N)		License to Drill		Mayday
	34	48	48 HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Agent-Agent	Intervention	Property Virgin	Unsellable	House Hunters
	46	46	46 HIST	Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Ice Pilots NWT (N)		Nostradamus Effect (N)		Ice Road Truckers		Ice Pilots NWT
	17	17	17 MM	America's Best Dance Crew		Make It or Break It		disBAND (N)	Video on Trial	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	My Date With...
	19	19	19 MMM	mmtop10.ca		The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Gene Simmons	G. Simmons	Entourage
	201	201	201 M1	(6:40) *Yes Man* ★★ (2008, Comedy)			(8:25) *Second Chances* (2010)			*The Ruins* ★★ (2008, Horror)		
	48	23	23 OLN	Mantracker		Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth		Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters
	51	51	51 PEACH	Friends	Name Is Earl	Family Guy	Family Guy	College Basketball Florida at South Carolina. (Live)				Law & Order
	206	206	206 PIX	(6:45) *Lost Souls* ★ (2000, Suspense)			(8:25) *Stowaways* (1997, Drama)			*Queen of the Damned* ★ (2002, Horror)		
	67	67	67 RDI	RDI monde	RDI économie	24 Heures en 60 minutes (SC)		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie
	39	39	39 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		*I Me Wed* (2007, Romance-Comedy) Erica Durance.				HawthoRNe (N)
	40	40	40 SLICE	What Happen?	Wedding SOS	Rich Bride Poor Bride		End of Leash	End of Leash	End/Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash
	47	47	47 SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Supernatural
	14	14	14 SPIKE	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die
	98	98	98 STAR	etalk	TMZ (N)	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		Dr. Oz Show
	21	21	21 TLC	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Mystery Diagnosis		Pregnant and in Peril		I'm Pregnant	I'm Pregnant	Toddler-Tiara
	34	34	34 TROP	Project Runway Canada		Rescue Ink		Hoarders		Hoarders		Parking Wars
	20	20	20 TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Verdict		*J'attends quelqu'un*			Mission Iapin	À Table
	28	28	28 V	Emily of New Moon		Murder, She Wrote		No Place Like	Open All Hours	Doc Martin (N)		Unscripted (N)
	97	97	97 VIVA	Da Vinci's Inquest		Cold Case "Sandhogs"		Missing		The Closer		Cold Case
	22	22	22 W	House-Sell	House-Sell	Supernanny		Chef Worthy	Grocery Bag	The Restaurant	The Restaurant	Chef Worthy
	251	251	251 WGN	WGN Evening News		Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Life Unexpected (HDTV)		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		WGN News



A kitty cat in London

Susan Boyle's cat Pebbles has moved out of their home. The much-loved pet is now living in London with a friend of the singer because Boyle isn't at her house in Scotland often enough to care for her properly. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Rockin' out with The Rolling Clean and Sobers

DOESN'T REALLY HAVE THE RING TO IT Rolling Stones bandmates Ronnie Wood and Keith Richards are helping each other quit drinking. The two guitarists are reportedly giving each other moral support as they cope with life without booze, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Notorious hellraiser Keith, 66, reportedly stopped drinking after receiving advice from his doctor, while Ronnie is staying alcohol-free for new girlfriend Ana Araujo, 30.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



From beyond the grave

WITH SPECIFIC PERSONAL MESSAGES NO ONE WOULD KNOW BUT HER, LIKE SHE MISSES HER DAUGHTER. DEEP. A psychiatrist facing criminal charges in Anna Nicole Smith's death recently attended a séance for the model, who died three years ago Monday, people.com reports.

Psychic Shayne Goldfarb led the séance at Pol Atteu's Beverly Hills boutique, according to Atteau's partner, Patrik Simpson, a close friend of Smith's.

Among those attending was Smith's neighbour and psychiatrist, Dr. Khristine Eroshevich, who travelled with Smith in her final months and who, along with two others, will soon stand trial on drug conspiracy charges.

Simpson, co-author of Anna Nicole Smith, Portrait of an Icon, Signature Edition, says he's convinced they really did contact Smith during the séance and that the psychic told them Smith is "happy she's with (her late son) Daniel. She's sad she had to leave her daughter, but she really had to be with Daniel."

It was on Feb. 8, 2007, that Smith died at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, Fla., at age 39, after her body was assaulted with prescription medications that left her too weak to move.

Smith made it clear to those around her that she was depressed and heartbroken after Daniel died at age 20 just months earlier while visiting his mother in the Bahamas upon the birth of his baby sister, Dannielynn, who was fathered by photographer Larry Birkhead.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Football and foreign aid

THE LIFE OF A TYPICAL SUPER STAR After her PDA-packed Super Bowl appearance with Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie jetted off to the Dominican Republic Monday to visit hospitalized Haitian earthquake survivors and meet with Dominican President Leonel Fernandez, people.com reports.



Yesterday, the 34-year-old UN goodwill ambassador — who is suing a British tabloid for claiming that she plans to split from Brad Pitt — was expected to travel to Haiti.

Last month, Jolie — who has visited many countries as an ambassador including Iraq and Pakistan — announced that she and beau Pitt, 46, are donating $1 million US to the emergency medical operation in Haiti.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Move over, Simon

MADGE'S MAN IS IN TOWN Madonna's manager is being lined up to replace Simon Cowell on the American Idol judging panel, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Guy Oseary — who is also Chairman of the singer's label Maverick Records, which has also released LPs by The Prodigy, Alanis Morissette and Deftones — is said to be the favourite to succeed Cowell when he leaves the show after the current series.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

'Part of a larger plan'

HERE COME THE CONSPIRACY THEORIES Michael Jackson's family members are less than satisfied with the proposed fate of Conrad Murray, the doctor who was charged with involuntary manslaughter this week over the late singer's death.

"He's a monster," Katherine Jackson, Michael's mother, said while leaving the L.A. courthouse, according to People magazine.



Sister LaToya Jackson, meanwhile, is looking forward.

"Michael was murdered and although he died at the hands of Dr. Conrad Murray, I believe Dr. Murray was a part of a much larger plan," she said. "There are other individuals involved and I will not rest and I will continue to fight until all of the proper individuals are brought forth and justice is served."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

MATTHEW PERRY is reconsidering his identity, **PARIS HILTON** knows what she likes, **JONATHAN ROSS** is having pet issues, and **AMY WINEHOUSE** is looking for some verification.

@langfordperry Thinking pretty seriously about changing my name to klinty kluckson. More on this later...

@ParisHilton Just went to one of my favorite streets in Paris called Quai de La Megisserie. They have 3 blocks full of just pet stores. So cute!

@wossy I must go and remove a dog from the bedroom. One of them is being naughty on the upstairs carpet. Bye.

@amyjademermaid is carole king alive?



METRO WORLD NEWS

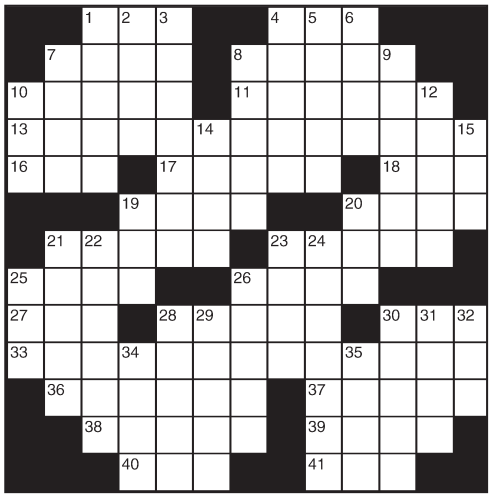
The Weather Network ©The Weather Network 2010

Today Sunny 0°/ -4°
Thursday 40% Flurries -1°/ -3°
Friday 60% Flurries 1°/ -4°

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Take Five



ACROSS

1 Puncturing tool
4 Shriver of tennis
7 Dog bane
8 December holidays
10 Water nymph
11 Gets out of bed
13 Scattered here and there
16 X rating?
17 Eco-community
18 Hearty brew
19 Car
20 Census statistics
21 Pizzeria need
23 Infants
25 Boat's floor
26 Employer
27 Scot's denial
28 Boy Scouts' unit
30 Bikini half
33 Covering a wide range
36 Muss
37 Mistreatment
38 Tire pattern
39 Unrivaled
40 Hogs' home
41 Explosive letters

DOWN

1 Extraterrestrial
2 Have on
3 Spotted beetle
4 Adar celebration
5 Wonderland visitor
6 Work well together
7 No. 1 pick, for short
8 Google competitor
9 Refuse matter
10 Trawler need
12 Corporate department
14 Accompanying
15 "Indeed"
19 Diving bird
20 Tummy muscles
21 Handed out hands
22 Endangered wildcat
23 Italy's shape
24 Paving material
25 "CSI" evidence
26 Filled with ennui
28 Family-room appliance
29 Pass along
30 Tactless
31 American Beauty, e.g.
32 Chowed down
34 What we share
35 Black, in verse

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		7				9		
	4	8	6		9	1	3	
6	9						4	8
			9	1	3			
				4				
			8	2	7			
1	2						8	6
	5	3	1		2	7	9	
		9				5		

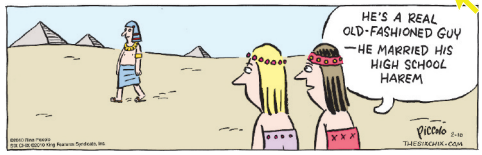
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

I	R	K	S			O	W	N		R	A	P	T	
C	E	N	T			C	H	I		O	G	R	E	
O	D	O	R			C	O	X	S	W	A	I	N	
N	O	X	I	O	U	S			T	E	R	M	S	
			F	I	R		S	Y	N					
G	A	V	E	L		R	O	X	A	N	N	E		
O	D	E				A	N	Y			O	A	R	
T	O	X	E	M	I	A			L	U	N	G	E	
			R	I	D			P	E	N				
A	R	E	A	S		F	O	X	T	R	O	T		
B	O	X	S	C	O	R	E		R	A	T	A		
E	D	I	E			H	A	S		U	N	T	O	
L	E	T	S			S	T	Y		E	G	O	S	

2	6	3	8	7	4	1	5	9
8	4	5	9	6	1	3	7	2
1	7	9	3	5	2	4	6	8
6	9	1	7	4	5	2	8	3
4	8	7	6	2	3	9	1	5
5	3	2	1	9	8	6	4	7
3	1	4	2	8	7	5	9	6
9	5	8	4	3	6	7	2	1
7	2	6	5	1	9	8	3	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



Chili Penne with Butternut Squash

INGREDIENTS:

11 oz (350 g) penne
2 lb (1 kg) butternut squash, peeled and cut into 3/4-in. (2-cm) cubes
1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
1/4 tsp (1 mL) crushed chili flakes
1/4 tsp (1 mL) cumin seeds
5 oz (150 g) soft goat cheese, crumbled
1/2 cup (250 mL) grated Parmesan cheese

METHOD:

1. Cook penne and squash in large pot of salted boiling water 12 minutes or until squash is soft and pasta is al dente. Reserve 6 3/4 tbsp (100 mL) cooking water, then drain thoroughly.
2. Pour olive oil into warm pasta pot set over low heat, and stir in crushed chili flakes and cumin seeds. Cook 1 minute, then remove from heat.
3. Return pasta and squash to pot and add reserved cooking liquid. Combine gently. Add goat cheese, season to taste and toss. Turn into warm serving bowl and top with Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You've had all sorts of great ideas since the start of the year, but now some of those ideas may look a little impractical.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You will certainly regret it if you pass up an opportunity to enhance your reputation today. Believe in yourself. Others do.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You are not as confident as you look (you rarely are) and it's likely you are having serious doubts about something you recently signed up to.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Ignore the critics. You know you are on the right track and you know you are doing the right thing. So what else matters?

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Cosmic activity in your opposite sign means there is an important issue over which you have no control. Don't worry — it will work out fine.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The Sun in Aquarius at this time of year urges you to manage your time in a more economical way.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
If someone threatens to reveal what you don't want the world to know, call their bluff. Don't let blackmail work.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You may be a headstrong individual but that can either work for you or against you, depending on how you choose to use it.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
If you tell yourself that you are going to be bored and miserable today that is exactly how you will feel.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You are advised to listen to your head rather than your heart where matters of cash and what you own and earn are concerned.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
As from today words will come more easily to you, which will have beneficial effects both in your working environment and in your personal life.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
What you hear today may sound exciting but can you really trust what other people are saying? Show an interest but keep your options open.

This day in history

1798: Louis Alexandre Berthier invades Rome, proclaims a Roman Republic on Feb. 15 and then on Feb. 20 takes Pope Pius VI prisoner.
1870: The YWCA is founded (New York City).
1931: New Delhi becomes the capital of India.
1954: President Dwight Eisenhower warns against United States intervention in Vietnam.
1970: Sylvester Stallone's first film Italian Stallion is released.
1998: Voters in Maine repeal a gay rights law passed in 1997 becoming the first U.S. state to abandon that law.

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STK #10GC9028



MRSP: 46,320

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[1]$6,723 potential savings amount is based on the assumption that the average prime rate during the 72 month financing term will be 2.25%.

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